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For Immediate Release

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## **Hit The Trail for Dinosaur Adventure: The Montana Dinosaur Trail**

Helena – April 21, 2005 – For more than a century, paleontologists have been beating a path to Montana to uncover and research the state's dinosaur fossil treasures. Now, Montana Commerce Department Director Anthony J. Preite announces that Montanans and our visitors have a chance to follow in their footsteps (and the footsteps of the dinosaurs) by traveling along the Montana Dinosaur Trail.

The Montana Dinosaur Trail is a network of 13 museums, interpretive centers and field stations located in 10 communities of eastern and central Montana. Each offers significant, unique and – in some cases – world-class dinosaur displays and activities for visitors. (See Sidebar Story for Facility List and Highlights.) Over half of the facilities offer guided tours or other programming on topics related to Montana's dinosaur fossil resources. Some operate or are affiliated with field dig programs that provide public opportunities to participate in scientific fossil excavation. Most of the facilities have information about other public field dig programs operating in their area.

The "Trail" was created by a partnership involving the facilities and 9 regional, state and federal agencies and organizations. The agencies and organizations included the Missouri River, Custer, Russell and Yellowstone Country tourism regions; Malta Chamber of Commerce; Bozeman Convention and Visitors Bureau; Parks Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Montana BLM; and Montana Commerce Department Promotion Division's Travel Montana program. These partners provided funding to create a Montana Dinosaur Trail brochure and a Web Portal – [www.mtdinotrail.org](http://www.mtdinotrail.org). The partnership is also working with the facilities and communities to promote the trail and distribute the brochures.

For more information about the Montana Dinosaur Trail, contact any of the trail facilities, Travel Montana (1-800-847-4868, [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com)), Custer Country (1-800-346-1876, [www.custer.visitmt.com](http://www.custer.visitmt.com)), Missouri River Country (1-800-653-1319, [www.missouririver.visitmt.com](http://www.missouririver.visitmt.com)), Russell Country (1-800-527-5348, [www.russell.visitmt.com](http://www.russell.visitmt.com)), and Yellowstone Country (1-800-736-5276, [www.yellowstone.visitmt.com](http://www.yellowstone.visitmt.com)).

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**Travel Montana • Department of Commerce**

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## **Montana Dinosaur Trail Facility List, Highlights & Contact Information**

### **Carter County Museum, Ekalaka**

(Contacts: Warren & Shirley White, 406-775-6886)

Montana's first county museum features one of only three known skeletons of *Anatotitan copei* in the world today along with complete skulls of *Triceratops horridus* (three horns), *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis* (dome head) and *Nannotyrannys lancesis* (tiny *Tyrannosaurus*) – all collected from the area's Hell Creek Formation.

### **Makoshika State Park, Glendive**

(Contacts: Ryan Sokoloski, Tom Shoush, 406-377-6256)

Montana's largest state park has yielded ten different dinosaur species from within or near its borders. These include a complete *Triceratops horridus* skull (on display at the park's Visitor Information Center), *Edmontosaurus*, *Tyrannosaurus rex* and a nearly complete skeleton of the extremely rare *Thescelosaur*.

### **Makoshika Dinosaur Museum, Glendive**

(Contacts: Steve & Christie Bury, 406-377-1637)

In a setting resembling a lush Cretaceous Forest, an ancient seascape and a wall of bone, you'll find displays of actual fossils found in eastern Montana's Hell Creek Formation, replicas of area dinosaurs, a working fossil prep lab and field dig opportunities on area ranches.

### **Garfield County Museum, Jordan**

(Contacts: Judy Lervick, 406-557-2026, Mareta Brusett, 406-557-2308)

The world's first *Tyrannosaurus rex* was uncovered near Jordan in 1902. The museum's main attractions include a full *Tyrannosaurus rex* head, and a full size replica of a *Triceratops horridus* excavated just northwest of Jordan.

### **Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum, Fort Peck**

(Contact: Michele Fromdahl, 406-526-3493)

This newly opened state-of-the-art facility features a life-size replica of “Peck’s Rex™,” one of the most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeletons ever found. The museum’s exhibit hall displays a full-size cast skeleton of the actual Peck’s Rex along with other dinosaur replica exhibits.

### **Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc., and Dinosaur Field Station, Fort Peck**

(Contacts: Linda Sibley & Chris Morrow, 406-526-3539)

This working field station is where paleontologists research, prepare, mold and cast area fossil finds. They offer cast replicas for sale and have other fossil-related items, activities and access to field digs.

### **Phillips County Museum, Malta**

(Contact: Aimee Salveson, 406-654-1037)

Many of the unique dinosaur fossils recently discovered in north central Montana are displayed here. This includes a 33-foot long skeleton of “Elvis” the *Brachylophosaurus*, one of the best articulated dinosaur skeletons ever found.

### **Dinosaur Field Station, Malta**

(Contact: Nate Murphy, 406-654-5300)

Home to the Judith River Dinosaur Institute, this working field laboratory prepares Montana fossils uncovered by its public field dig program for display at local and other Montana facilities. Here you’ll see the *Brachylophosaurus* “Leonardo,” a mummy dinosaur recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the “best preserved” dinosaur ever found.

### **H. Earl Clack Memorial Museum, Havre**

(Contact: Cheryl Gilbert, 406-265-4000)

The featured display of this museum is the 75 million year old dinosaur eggs and embryos found in the area’s Judith River Formation.

### **Upper Musselshell Museum, Harlowton**

(Contact: Bob Brown, 406-632-5519)

The museum’s centerpiece is a full-size replica of “Ava” the *Avaceratops*, a first of its kind dinosaur found in the Judith River Formation near Shawmut.

### **Old Trail Museum, Choteau**

(Contact: Chris Hoyt, 406- 466-5332)

The Old Trail Museum offers a new “Dinosaurs of the Two Medicine” paleontology gallery telling and showing the story of these former inhabitants of Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front.

### **Two Medicine Dinosaur Center, Bynum**

(Contacts: Dave & Laurie Trexler, 1-800-238-6873)

In addition to offering an active field dig and fossil preparation program for the public, this facility houses the world’s largest full-size skeletal model of *Seismosaurus halli* (earth-shaker lizard; 137 feet long, nearly 23 feet tall at the hips) and the first baby dinosaur bones found in North America

### **Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman**

(Contacts: Jamie Cornish & Pat Leiggi, 406-994-DINO)

Home to the largest collection of dinosaur fossils from the United States, the Museum of the Rockies features *Maiasaura peeblesorum* (official state fossil) and other species and eggs from world-famous Egg Mountain near Choteau. The new Siebel Dinosaur Complex opens June 2005 highlighting Montana’s upper Cretaceous dinosaurs including *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Torosaurus*, *Triceratops* and more.

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